

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for interfacing a user location on a network to a destination location on the network, comprising the steps of:

scanning a bar code at the user location having product information contained therein relating to an associated product, which bar code has no network routing information contained therein or inherently associated therewith;

extracting product information from the bar code;

defining routing information over the network from the user location to the destination location in direct response to the steps of scanning and extracting, which routing information defines the location of the destination location on the network, the step of defining including the steps of:

accessing a relational database at a database location on the network different than the user location containing a relationship between product information and predefined destination locations on the network, which relational database is operable to determine the one of the predefined destination locations associated with the extracted product information from the user location;

transmitting to the relational database the extracted product information;

instructional code generated at the database location on the network defining an instruction to force the user location to be connected to at least one predefined destination defined by the relationship stored in the relational database in association with the transmitted extracted product information;

receiving from the relational database the generated instructional code containing routing information associated with the extracted product information; and

interconnecting the user location to the destination location in accordance with instructional code containing the defined routing information, which step of interconnecting occurs in direct response to the steps of scanning, extracting and defining

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after the step of scanning such that the operation thereof is controlled from the database location.

2. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of receiving information from the destination location in response to interconnecting thereto and displaying the received information.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the bar code is disposed on or in close association with the associated product.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the bar code comprises a ISBN bar code.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the bar code comprises an EAN bar code.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the bar code comprises a UPN bar code.

7. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of defining routing information comprises defining a universal resource locator (URL) of the destination location over the network in direct response to the step of scanning and extracting.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of defining routing information comprises the step of determining the existence of predetermined association between the scanned bar code and routing information for the destination location on the network.

9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of determining the existence of predetermined association comprises the step of accessing a database of a plurality of predetermined associations between a plurality of bar codes and associated routing information and determining if there is a corresponding bar code in the database.

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10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of accessing comprises the steps of:

transmitting information extracted from the bar code to an intermediate location on the network;

5 providing an associative database at the intermediate location, which associative database has stored therein the plurality of bar codes and associated routing information;

comparing the information extracted from the bar code received at the intermediate location with the database; and

10 if there is a corresponding bar code in the database to the extracted information in the bar code, returning the routing information to the user's location.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for interfacing a user location on a network to a destination location on the network, comprising the steps of:

5 scanning a bar code at the user location having product information contained therein relating to an associated product with a scanner, which bar code has no network routing information contained therein or inherently associated therewith;

in direct response to the step of scanning, extracting product information contained within the bar code for conversion in an interface device to keyboard data input to a PC at the user location in combination with a scanner ID;

10 in direct response to the step of extracting, defining routing information over the network from the user location to the destination location in response to the steps of scanning and extracting, which routing information defines the location of the destination location on the network, the step of defining including the steps of:

15 accessing a relational database at a database location on the network different than the user location containing a relationship between product information and predefined destination locations on the network, which relational database is operable to determine the one of the predefined destination locations associated with the extracted product information;

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transmitting from the user location to the relational database the extracted product information;

instructional code generated at the database location on the network defining an instruction to force the user location to be connected to at least one predefined destination defined by the relationship stored in the relational database in association with the transmitted extracted product information;

receiving from the relational database the generated instructional code containing routing information associated with the extracted product information; and

in direct response to the step of defining, interconnecting the user location to the destination location in accordance with instructional code containing the defined routing information such that the operation of forcing is controlled from the database location.

12. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11, further comprising the steps of receiving information from the destination location in response to interconnecting thereto and displaying the received information.

13. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the bar code is disposed on or in close association with the associated product.

14. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the bar code comprises a ISBN bar code.

15. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the bar code comprises an EAN bar code.

16. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the bar code comprises a UPN bar code.

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17. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of defining routing information comprises defining a universal resource locator (URL) of the destination location over the network in direct response to the step of scanning and extracting.

18. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of defining routing information comprises the step of determining the existence of predetermined association between the scanned bar code and routing information for the destination location on the network.

19. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the step of determining the existence of predetermined association comprises the step of accessing a database of a plurality of predetermined associations between a plurality of bar codes and associated routing information and determining if there is a corresponding bar code in the database.

20. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein the step of accessing comprises the steps of:

transmitting information extracted from the bar code to an intermediate location on the network;

5 providing an associative database at the intermediate location, which associative database has stored therein the plurality of bar codes and associated routing information;

comparing the information extracted from the bar code received at the intermediate location with the database; and

10 if there is a corresponding bar code in the database to the extracted information in the bar code, returning the routing information to the user's location.

21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the relational database is disposed on an intermediate node on the network.

22. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the relational database is disposed on an intermediate node on the network.

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